

best, and I know my colleagues join me in thanking them for their service and in wishing them well in their new endeavors.

DAWSON, YOU ARE SO AWESOME,
YOU ARE SO DAWSOME, AS CAN
BE! IN HONOR OF DAWSON COX
AND HIS COURAGE AND HIS BAT-
TLE

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of Lincoln, Nebraska's most courageous sons, and one of my constituents, Dawson Cox. I had the honor to take him and his sisters Stevie and Nessa on the floor of the House during our vote, and spend time with him and his family. Dawson's Make A Wish, was to come to Washington D.C. and visit the new Dr. King Jr. Memorial, and to stand on the very spot where the I Have A Dream speech was given. Dr. King is his hero. And Dr. King would be proud of Dawson too for his courage! Dawson toured the Capitol, and met many members of Congress and one of the House's true Icon's JOHN LEWIS. Congressman LEWIS, is the only surviving member left who spoke on that day. His new friend Bert, was so impressed with his courage and faith, and his spirit, that he penned this poem in his honor. Our prayers and our thoughts go out to Dawson and his family, during his most courageous battle.

DAWSON, YOU ARE SO AWESOME, YOU ARE SO
DAWSOME, AS CAN BE!

Dawson!
You are so Awesome!
You are so Dawsome!
As Can Be!
You're Major "D"!
For you are one of Nebraska's,
most courageous of all sons so to be!
Yea, you are a Husker!
Who can so muster!
The will and the courage,
and the faith to so overcome!
To Fight The Good Fight!
As Thy Will Be Done!
With all of your might!
For inside of you, but shines such a light!
For You are Major!
You're Major "D", and yet your so young!
And mini me, you so complete me!
You see,
because heroes come in all shapes and sizes,
but it's all about what's within their hearts,
that which so comprises . . .
Of what they so can be!
He's The Man!
Even Washington has his initials DC,
Dawson Cox understand!
Because, In The Game of Life . . .
Dawson, you are a winner so very bright!
And if ever I had a son,
I so wish that he could be like you this one!
With that smile,
that tells me all the while,
that the heart of a champion so beats in this
one!
And when you walked on that House floor,
they say the ratings on Cspan shot up so
much more!
That's because you are Major "D"!
And you are so Awesome Mr. Dawson can't
you see!
For you are as brave as can be,
as any Navy, Air Force, Army, or United
States Marine!

Because,
you and your families just like them and
theirs,
fight a war and the good fight continually!
For you are all so much alike in so many
ways!
And yet Dawson,
you are just a little boy!
Who out of such heartache can still find so
much joy!

And yet,
already so much you so understand!
And what we could so learn from you,
if we but so walked hand in hand!
If Dr. King,
is a King Among Men!
Then, you Dawson . . .
are but a Prince Among Children!
For he's for MLK Jr.,
all the way
Heroes,
our children should not so have to be,
but sometimes this is what our Lord has cho-
sen for us to teach!

To be inspired!
To take and lift our hearts higher!
To show us all that against all odds they
never tire!

All in their profiles of courage don't you see?
And to remind us to hold our families close!
To so remember what so but means the
most!

And to against all odds to always so believe!
And, that is why . . .
with tear in eye Dawson you so complete me!
Dawson!

You Are So Awesome!
You Are So Dawsome!
So Dawsome As Can Be!
Because,
it's with your heart you so run!
On earth as it will be in Heaven,
as Thy Will Be Done!

And that smile,
and that wit,
and that mind,
so very creative and so quick I'll carry with
me every day!

Because, you are my new best friend. . .
Dawson, your Major "D" . . .
And you are as Awesome as Awesome so can
be!

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4310—THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS- CAL YEAR 2013

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that I must rise in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 4310, the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act. America's men and women in uniform deserve, and Congress must pass, legislation that provides them with the resources they need to preserve our national security. Unfortunately, this bill does not reflect the range of 21st-Century threats the United States must prepare for, nor does it reflect the urgent fiscal crisis this Congress must address. What this massive \$633 billion defense bill does reflect, however, are disastrously misplaced priorities.

On May 10th of this year, House Republicans passed the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act (H.R. 5652), which exempts the Pentagon from \$55 billion in automatic spending cuts agreed to in last year's Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25). How did they pro-

pose to do it? By cutting over \$310 billion from domestic programs. These were cuts to nutrition assistance programs for low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and working families; cuts that will deny more than 200,000 low-income children their school lunches; cuts to the Meals on Wheels program critical to disabled seniors, and cuts to programs that protect vulnerable and abused children. These will have a real and severe impact on American families. Instead of asking the Pentagon to make tough choices and eliminate wasteful spending programs, House Republicans would rather balance the budget on the backs of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Here is just one example of Pentagon spending that House Republicans are protecting by cutting programs for low-income children, seniors, and working families: in this fiscal year, the Department of Defense plans to spend \$389 million for its 150 military bands and more than 5,000 full-time, professional military musicians. This is a prime example of excessive military spending that we simply do not need, and can no longer afford. Earlier this year, the House passed my bipartisan amendment to this bill limiting the amount the military spends annually on military bands to no more than \$200 million—not an insignificant sum. I am very disappointed to see that this language was not included in the Conference Report. This smart cut would have continued to provided \$200 million for military bands in fiscal year 2013, ensuring that America would maintain its strong tradition of military bands, while saving taxpayers \$2 billion over the next decade.

Lastly, the Conference Report does virtually nothing to correct the civil liberties abuses passed in last year's defense authorization bill. House and Senate Conferees stripped a bipartisan amendment offered by Senators FEINSTEIN (D-CA) and Senator LEE (R-UT) which would have helped ensure that no one can be denied a fair trial and detained indefinitely when they are captured in the United States. I am appalled that this commonsense amendment to protect the most basic American civil liberties was not included in the legislation before us today.

Mr. Speaker, there are several positive provisions of this bill that I support, including the continuance of DOD clean energy programs, lifting restrictions on servicewomen's access to reproductive health care, and addressing military sexual assault. It also takes steps that would help eliminate hazing in the military and prevents any increase in new TRICARE fees. Unfortunately, the underlying legislation contains too much wasteful spending and does not correct the egregious human abuses that were part of the fiscal year 2012 bill.

One of our primary duties as Members of Congress is to provide the resources and policy guidance necessary to protect our Nation. We must make certain that every dollar in this bill contributes to our national defense. It is time for tough choices and smart cuts that save taxpayer dollars, even at the Pentagon. Wasteful and excessive Pentagon spending is no longer acceptable as low income families, seniors, and disabled Americans to go without the critical services.

I urge my colleagues oppose this legislation.